

***Examiner Comment***

Based upon a telephonic interview conducted August 16, 2011 between David L. Ciesielski, counsel for applicant, and examiner, examiner hereby supplements the Notice of Allowability mailed in this case on August 3, 2011.

The office action mailed in this matter on September 9, 2010 is hereby amended to indicate that the drawings filed on October 15, 2001 have been accepted by examiner.

Further, examiner has attached an annotated version of an information disclosure statement ("IDS") filed on April 21, 2008 indicating that the art cited in said IDS has been considered by examiner. The foregoing IDS was filed after a first action on the merits following a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) but before a final disposition following such RCE, with payment of the appropriate fee. Therefore the foregoing RCE was entitled to consideration.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BENNETT SIGMOND whose telephone number is (571) 270-3414. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3688

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/B.S./

Junior Examiner, Art Unit 3688

/JOHN G. WEISS/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3688